

“O my love is like a red, red rose, that’s newly sprung in June....“

Robert Burns

Inspired too like Robbie Burns, this Goldsmith is, as ever, smitten by the red rose – which today is undoubtedly recognised as the near-universal “Flower of Love”. Long entranced by Love’s Flower, I and my team at Atelier Thomas Schafroth have delighted in designing a truly unique range of jewellery – equally as exclusive and exquisite as was the rose that enchanted Burns.

Unique if not unprecedented in our time, by dint of design we have deigned damnation on conventional women’s shoes. My team and I intend to literally transmute ladies footwear into bejewelled *objets d’art*. Shoes destined to beguile their beholders and draw avid attention to their mistresses.

Obeying inspiration’s dictates, we have designed an incomparable collection of jewelled footwear – which my team and I have dubbed “Rose Shoes”. A collection dedicated to the rose and her fabled attributes. Employing enamel, diamonds and gold, our shoes will embody Love’s Flower, enchant the eye, enrapture and ensnare the senses of all who gaze upon them.

Peerless pieces of jewellery (see graphic?), their components will comprise the following materials and processing:

Soles and heels will be fashioned from finest rosewood – a valuable cabinet wood of a dark red colour streaked and variegated whit black.

To ensure the ultimate in bespoke comfort, the lasts for our Rose Shoes will of course be handcrafted. Following outline and measurement, suitable shoe shape and pitch (heel height) will be determined and incorporated. Naturally, only the finest of fine leather will be used in linings. For the wearer, orthopaedic probity we rank our top priority.

Uppers are forged from 18-carat gold and fashioned into rose leaves (*bot.* blades). Not dissimilar to nature’s blades, their exterior surfaces will be lent varied hues of dark silky-red- a rare translucence afforded by enamel on gold.

Applying the same processes as previously mentioned, enamelling on 18-carat gold will also endow the shoes green foliage the same, lush properties of hue and translucence.

Forming part of the pedicel, the rosewood heels are embellished with thorns of gold (see graphic?). The entire inflorescence is sprinkled with diamonds of different dimensions – rendering the effect of dewdrops, sparkling on a red rose’s petals, blades and stem in the morning sun.

The cut practised on these dewdrops of diamond is that of the rose – none other being better suited (or for that matter more appropriate).

Description of rose cut diamond:

Various forms of the rose cut have been in use since the middle of the 16<sup>th</sup> century – being derived from older types of cuts. The basic rose cut has a flat base (no pavilion) and a crown composed of triangular facets (usually 12 or 24) in symmetrical arrangement, which rise to form a point. They are usually circular in outline; variations include: the briolette (oval); Antwerp rose (hexagonal); and double Dutch rose (resembling two rose cuts united back-to-back).

Rose cuts are seldom seen nowadays, except in antique jewellery. Like the older style cuts, there is a growing demand for rose cuts for the purpose of repairing or reproducing antique pieces.